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Studien zur Geschichte kapitalistischer Organisationsformen. By JAKOB STRIEDER. Leipzig: Duncker u. Humblot, 1914. 8vo, pp. i+486. M. 12.

This study of early capitalistic organizations has revealed much interesting information relative to the character and extent of these industrial forms in the Middle Ages. The *Montan* industry furnishes the illustration of the earliest capitalistic organization. In the mediaeval period there existed *Kartels* and monopolies in the tin industry of Saxony, in the wholesale tin trade of Bohemia and Saxony, in the quicksilver trade, and in some other less important industries. The description of the manipulation of the quicksilver mines of Almaden by the Spanish government and the Idrian mines by the Austrian government is of special interest. At certain periods during the early centuries there existed a complete monopoly of this industry, a monopoly, which by the way, was duplicated during the first half of the nineteenth century, up to the time of the discovery of the cinnabar mines of California, by the London house of Rothschild's control of the quicksilver output.

This extensive development of capitalistic organization during the Middle Ages is explained by the financial politics of the popes and the heads of states. The need for money and the financial dependence of church and state upon big capital forced upon them methods contrary to the business ethics of the day. In order to assure themselves of high incomes, church and state have often practiced an unscrupulous monopolistic price policy in business fields where they had the power. What Hermann Levy has proved for England under Elizabeth, James, and Charles—that regents directly acted the rôle of speculation-hungry promoters of capitalistic enterprises—this also holds for the continent at a much earlier date. In the “Holy Roman land of the German nation” the creation of monopolies under Charles V and Ferdinand I had developed considerably. The crown and the merchant worked hand in hand in the upbuilding of early capitalistic organization.

The inclusion of facsimiles of various business documents of the period—contracts, letters, statutes, plans, and agreements—is an interesting feature of this book.

Within Prison Walls. By THOMAS MOTT OSBORNE. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1914. 8vo, pp. vi+328. \$1.50 net.

Within Prison Walls, with the subtitle, “A Narrative of Personal Experience during a Week of Voluntary Confinement in the State Prison at Auburn, New York,” is the story of an experiment made by the chairman of the New York State Prison Reform Commission in an attempt to understand prison conditions from the inside. At first thought the experiment impresses one as both foolish and useless—foolish because there is about it a certain amount of the spectacular which always detracts from the ordinary individual's belief in the seriousness of any undertaking, useless because one doubts whether an

outsider, coming frankly for the sake of information, would be able to penetrate the real inwardness of the prison in so short a time.

But Mr. Osborne was interested in ascertaining the effect of the existing system on the individual subjected to it and in this it may fairly be said he has had considerable success. The terrible test on one's self-control and one's reason imposed by solitary confinement, the ability which the prisoners acquire in controverting prison rules, their loyalty to one another as against the officers, and their frequent acts of helpfulness are also testified to in another prison experience written from an entirely different viewpoint, namely, Alexander Berkmann's *Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist*.

The general impression conveyed by Mr. Osborne's book is one of faith in the value of his undertaking. This is weakened somewhat by what seems to be a too unbroken success on the part of the writer in finding some telling appeal to make to every prisoner and his apparent belief that he has in hand all the elements for resolving the "system" into something that will prove a panacea for all problems of prison reform. If these were indeed so simple as to admit of immediate solution apart from many other of our present-day problems, they would hardly be worth the thought that has been spent on them. But some share toward clearing them up will certainly fall to Mr. Osborne, now that he has been placed in the position of warden of the Auburn prison.

Industrial Conditions among Negroes in St. Louis. By WILLIAM AUGUST CROSSLAND. (Washington University. Studies in Social Economics, Vol. I, No. 1.) St. Louis, 1914. 8vo, pp. ix+123. \$0.75.

This exhaustive study of conditions among the negroes of St. Louis was undertaken in response to a feeling on the part of the Committee on Social Service among colored people in St. Louis that a thorough investigation of the industrial situation of the race was the first step in a constructive program of local race betterment. The work was done in order that it might be of actual assistance to the negroes. As such it is much more valuable than if it had been done purely for research. Conditions in St. Louis are not typical enough of those over the whole United States to enable a study of St. Louis, no matter how well done, to be useful in drawing conclusions for the whole country. As a guide book to those who want to help the negroes in St. Louis it is comprehensive and practical.

The study is divided into five main parts: "The Negro in the City," "Occupations and Wages," "Negro Men in Professions and Business," "The Negro Wage-Earner," and "A General Summary and Conclusions." Under these heads a very thorough analysis of working conditions, the opportunities, and the special problem of the negro, his relation to the trade union, and the attitudes of employers toward him is reinforced by tables and charts which illustrate very clearly the points made.